

# LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY  
**JOHN McCORMICK,**

PRICE OF SUBSCRIPTION:  
**Two Dollars a Year.**

## ADVERTISING RATES:

INCHES.	1 month.	3 months.	6 months.	1 year.
1 inch	\$ 2.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 15.00
2 inches	3.00	7.00	12.00	22.00
3 inches	4.00	10.00	18.00	32.00
4 inches	5.00	13.00	24.00	42.00
5 inches	6.00	16.00	30.00	52.00
6 inches	7.00	19.00	36.00	62.00
7 inches	8.00	22.00	42.00	72.00
8 inches	9.00	25.00	48.00	82.00
10 inches	11.00	30.00	58.00	102.00
12 inches	13.00	35.00	68.00	122.00
15 inches	16.00	42.00	82.00	152.00
20 inches	22.00	58.00	112.00	212.00

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## Newspaper Laws and Regulations.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered wishing to continue their subscriptions.
2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their periodicals, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrangements are paid.
3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their periodicals from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible until they have settled their bills and ordered them discontinued.
4. If subscribers move to another place without informing the publishers, and the papers are sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
5. The courts have decided that "refusing to take the periodicals from the office, or removing and leaving them uncollected for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud."
6. Any person who receives a newspaper and makes use of it, whether he has ordered it or not, is held in law to be a subscriber.
7. If subscribers pay in advance, they are bound to give notice to the publisher at the end of their term, if they do not wish to continue taking it; otherwise the publisher is authorized to continue sending it on, and the subscribers will be responsible until an express notice, with payment of all arrears, is sent to the publisher.

Entered at the Post Office, Lake Charles La., as second class matter.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1881.**

**Agents for the Commercial.**  
Jno. H. Poe.....Bogalou.  
J. W. Harrison.....West Lake Charles.  
C. Mayo.....Opelousas.

Have your old pictures copied, and restored, at Albert's Gallery.

## The Governor's Disability.

[N. O. Daily States.]

Governor Wiltz having returned to the city, the condition upon which acting Governor, Lieutenant Governor McNery was required by the constitution to assume the powers and discharge the functions of the governor, no longer existed.

The lieutenant governor promptly waited upon the governor to report his transactions and obtain a relief and discharge from the duties of which he was now *functus officio*.

With profound sorrow, we are informed that the Lieutenant Governor found the Governor in a greatly enfeebled condition, and disabled from the discharge of the duties of his office. He requested the Lieutenant Governor to continue at the post, and fulfill the duties of the office.

Such request, we presume, embodies satisfactory evidence of the disability of Gov. Wiltz, and creates the contingency upon which the Lieutenant Governor is required, by the Constitution, to assume the powers and duties of the office, and to exercise the same until the Governor's disability is removed.

It is upon this fact and the evidence thereof furnished by the Governor and made patent, to the Lieutenant Governor, that the latter becomes fully vested with all the powers and responsibilities of the Governor, and not upon any delegation or request of that official. There are acts to be performed by the chief executive which require legal, direct authority, such as cannot be delegated. Doubtless, Governor Wiltz, in his prostrate condition against which he battles with marvellous vitality and with that spirit and high sense of duty, which have characterized his whole official career, intended by the request made to Lieutenant Governor McNery, to relieve the latter of the responsibility of determining whether the contingency of disability had occurred, upon which the constitution makes it the duty of the Lieutenant Governor to enter upon the duties of the chief Executive.

The phrase "dead as a herring" may be traced to the fact that the herring is an extremely delicate fish, and whenever it is taken out of the water, even though it seems to have no hurt, it gives a squeal and immediately expires, and though it may be thrown immediately back into the water it never recovers.

## The Jury System.

To the COMMERCIAL:

In my last I promised to make some suggestion in regard to a more expeditious, and at the same time less expensive method of dealing with offenders of the law. In doing this I would premise, that every person apprehended for the commission of crime, must be, and is first, examined before a magistrate before he can be held to bail or committed to jail to await trial before the District Court.

Now, at this examination, the witnesses in the case must appear and give evidence, or the accused will be discharged for want of evidence. If the magistrate will take the evidence in writing as given by each witness, *pro* and *con*, entering that evidence upon his docket, and furnishing that docket, for the time being, to the District Court, there would not be so good an opportunity for witnesses to testify differently, in the District Court, to what they did in the lower court, as is often the case under the present grand jury system.

Their evidence standing upon the magistrate's docket, if they testify differently before the court, their evidence is at once invalidated, and their own conviction of perjury is at once apparent. In adopting this method, witnesses would be required to attend but two, instead of three, times, thus saving to the parish a large sum each year. It would give the magistrate a little more writing to do probably, but no more than he should do under the present regime of the offender, if found guilty on the evidence produced in the magistrate's court, must be required to give bond for his appearance or go to jail and there fed at the expense of the parish, as it is now; but there would be a great saving of costs in officers' fees, witnesses' fees and grand jury fees. While treating on the jury system I will notice some of the wrongs and rotteness of the travis jury.

The organic law of the State declares that a person accused of a crime; may or shall be tried by a jury of his peers; but the time now is that this law is null, for it is almost impossible to get a jury of intelligent men to try a case.

The man summoned as a juror is asked if he has formed or expressed an opinion upon what he has heard or read, and if the answer affirmatively he is told to stand aside. It is seldom you can find an intelligent man, one who reads and keeps himself informed of passing events, that does not form opinions in reference to the event, and that disqualifies him as a juror, and the result is that the accused is tried before a jury composed of illiterate men. The more ignorant a man is the better the lawyers like him for a juror.

This is often the case, though, I am happy to say, that there are some exceptions. The gentlemen composing the juries during the last session of our District Court are exceptions. They were, as far as I knew them, gentlemen of intelligence and good judgment, but as a general rule it is not so in many parishes, where the colored element preponderates.

E. CURR.

## Thomas Francis Bayard.

[N. O. Daily States.]

The convocation of the United States Senate in extra session will be followed by the election of a presiding officer. The Democrats having a clear majority will, undoubtedly, elect one of their own members, and it seems conceded the distinguished honor will be conferred upon the senior Senator from Delaware.

We learn from the Congressional Directory that Thomas Francis Bayard was born at Wilmington, Delaware, on the 29th of October, 1828, and was chiefly educated at the Flushing School established by the Rev. Dr. F. H. Hawks, well known in this city as one of our most learned and eloquent divines. Mr. Bayard was elected to succeed his father in the United States Senate, and took his seat in that body in 1869, and has been a member without interruption, since that time. He is now the oldest Democratic Senator, and is only the junior of Senator Anthony, who was elected in 1859.

The election of Senator Bayard will give the senate, as its presiding officer, the first Southerner since the election of John C. Breckinridge as vice president of the United States. In the event of any accident to President Arthur, Senator Bayard will fill the executive chair, and the control of the government will soon thereafter fall into the hands of the Democratic party, with a Southern statesman at its head.

A sea captain was brought before a justice and mercilessly attacked by his opponent's lawyer. When at length he was suffered to speak, he said: "Your honor, I ask a delay of one week in the proceedings, so that I may find a big enough liar to answer that man." His request was granted. —Ben Butler.

## Extra Session of the Senate.

[N. O. Democrat.]

The President's call for an extra session of the Senate in October generally interpreted as implying a desire on his part to provide for the succession and to remove the peril which now threatens us in the event of anything happening to the Executive. It will be remembered that the Senate adjourned without providing for this emergency and, now that events have emphasized the importance of filling that gap, there is a universal demand for such action as seems to be foreshadowed in the President's proclamation. Three months ago nothing would have struck the country as more improbable than that the Presidency of the Senate might assume profound importance outside of the mere question of the organization and internal government of that body. Two strong, buoyant lives stood between the people and anarchy, and when Congress adjourned in early summer, without having effected an organization in all its parts, the suggestion that the issue might arise in some urgent form during the vacation would have provoked an incredulous smile from the most thoughtful. The issue has arisen, however, and in a shape and under circumstances calculated to impress the whole nation with a sense of danger and insecurity. We have no means of absolutely knowing that the President intends to bring any other business before the Senate during its extra session. It is conjectured that some other confirmations may be sought and certain other independent functions of that branch of Congress brought into play. But that the chief motive of the proclamation is to bridge the possible hiatus now regarded by every one with apprehension can hardly be doubted. President Arthur has exhibited a wise regard for the proprieties and for public opinion, by issuing this call. The nation will breathe easier in consequence.

The amount of these bills was the next topic discussed, and Secretary Brown, after figuring up for a moment, estimated that the cost of the President's illness would not be far short of \$250,000. The doctors, he thought, with the exception of Barnes and Woodward, who as army surgeons are expected to attend the President as part of their official duties, should receive at least \$100,000, and perhaps much more. Dr. Reymann has been in attendance sixty-eight days, which at \$100 per day would entitle him to \$6800. Dr. Bliss will probably receive \$25,000, and Drs. Hamilton and Agnew's bill will not, it is thought, be more than \$15,000 apiece. It must be remembered that the professional fortunes of all these men are made by their connection with this case, and there is not a surgeon in the country who would not attend the president for months for the mere honor and reputation of the thing. "A singular thing," said secretary Brown, "and one which indicates the feeling of the people in the matter, is that we experience the greatest difficulty in getting bills from any one. Even persons who render services which are usually paid for at once, such as furnishing food, carriages, medicines, instruments, etc., refuse to send in their bills, and I do not know of a single bill yet sent in for services or goods rendered to the president during his illness."

## The Cost of the President's Illness.

[Troy Times.]

Our special telegram from Vermillionville gives the cheering intelligence that the Governor yesterday rode around that town in a carriage, received and entertained a number of his friends, was better than any day since leaving New Orleans, and would leave for this city this morning. This is good news indeed and will carry joy to the community at large.

## Organization of the Senate.

[Cincinnati Commercial.]

Washington, Sept. 23.—It is now stated very positively that at the extra session of the Senate, the President will nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Bench caused by the death of Judge Clifford. There are several Indian agents to be appointed, a Commissioner of Railroads, formerly called Auditor, Superintendent of the Mint at New Orleans, and a number of postmasters, besides several appointments on the army retired list, and promotions in the army and navy.

Senator Bayard will be unanimously chosen President of the Senate by the Democrats. He is senior Senator in the point of service of that party, and the custom of promoting the senior to the presidency is rarely ever disregarded by the Senate. No other Democratic name will be proposed or suggested. There are some Republican Senators who maintain that the presidency of the Senate and secretary should not be conceded to the Democrats, that there is no mandatory law requiring the president to be elected before new Senators are admitted, and that Republicans should contend for these offices. There are, however, a number of Republicans who agree with Senator Dawes, that the law governing the case gives the advantage to the Democrats, and that it must be observed. As yet no candidates for the secretaryship of the Senate have announced themselves, but now that an early extra session has been called, they will not be lacking. As Senator Bayard will be made president, some Democrats favor taking a Democrat from the North for Secretary.

## Explosion of a Torpedo—Murder of a Policeman.

[Special to the N. O. Democrat.]

Beaumont, Texas, Sept. 26.—A torpedo hung in a tree by some mischievous person was exploded last night, jarring the ground to such an extent as to excite fears of an earthquake. Officer William Patterson was mortally wounded by two pistol shots in the abdomen, at the hands of Bud Higgins, a young man of this city, who was being arrested by the officer for complicity in the torpedo business. Higgins also received a wound in the left arm. Accounts of the shooting are conflicting, each party charging the other with the first shot. Our whole community is in deep sympathy for Patterson, who, since the institution of our municipal government and his appointment as policeman, has exercised a commendable zeal in the suppression of lawless conduct, no matter by whom committed. Higgins is of respectable parents who join our people in expressions of sincere regret at the whole occurrence.

The midnight orgies of our colored church people are held blameless for this affair, the torpedo being intended to assist in the fore-said orgies, and the intention succeeded. Many joined the whites for the moment in believing the time had come to climb the golden stairs, but it broke up the orgies. Patterson has since died.

## To Cure a Felon.

—As soon as the parts begin to swell, get the tincture of lobelia and wrap the part affected with a cloth; saturate it thoroughly with the tincture, and the felon will soon die.

## Governor Wiltz.

[N. O. Democrat, Sept. 24.]

The startling rumors which gained credence yesterday morning of the death of Gov. Louis A. Wiltz created a profound impression and the Democrat office was besieged for information which it was impossible to give immediately.

Our latest dispatches led us to believe that the Governor was weak, but we were not prepared to hear of his death. The statements made by many persons seemed to be so circumstantial and positive, however, that we were not entirely reassured until the receipt about 11:30 o'clock yesterday of the telegram published elsewhere in this issue, giving the exact condition of the Executive, which is certainly very critical but does not necessarily awaken apprehension of a sudden and fatal termination of the manful struggle which the Governor has made against the disease which has undermined his naturally strong constitution.

There are not many persons outside of the immediate circle of the Governor's most intimate personal friends who know what a sufferer he has been almost ever since the heated campaign of 1879, in which he bore so conspicuous a part and in which he contracted the disease from the effects of which he has never recovered. The extended tour which he took last year for the benefit of his health, failed to give him relief, and even the pure bracing air of Colorado was not a tonic to him, as both himself and his friends had so earnestly hoped it would be. Suffering intensely from acute pain, prostrated physically so that any movement was a labor to him, he has with admirable courage and fortitude refused to admit, even to himself, that there was any serious trouble, and has insisted until very recently, in attending to affairs of the State, giving to the most obtruse and perplexing subjects that calm deliberation and careful scrutiny which it is his custom to bestow upon all matters pertaining to his duties. His physicians urgently recommended a trip to Texas in the hope that change of scene and the invigorating atmosphere of the interior of that State might be beneficial and he readily yielded assent, feeling that he owed it to himself and his family to make an effort to regain his lost health. He looked forward to the trip with intense pleasure and went into the Lone Star State full of hope for the future. His somewhat sudden return has given rise to serious alarm, and the people of New Orleans yesterday were rejoiced when they learned that the rumor of his death was not true.

Our special telegram from Vermillionville gives the cheering intelligence that the Governor yesterday rode around that town in a carriage, received and entertained a number of his friends, was better than any day since leaving New Orleans, and would leave for this city this morning. This is good news indeed and will carry joy to the community at large.

## A Duel at Night.

[Denver News.]

One of those tragic events that mark the narrow strip between civilization and barbarism occurred at Omaha, New Mexico, a short time since. The parties to the affair were Charlie Keiser and William Whitson (Tex), two southern boys, who paid the forfeit imposed by duty and pride. Tex held the position of town marshal, Keiser was carrying a pistol, contrary to the notices posted around, and Tex made an effort to disarm him. After trying in vain for several minutes to do this, he proposed a duel at ten steps. Keiser accepted the challenge. It was nearly 11 o'clock p. m., but the night was clear. Telling Keiser to be ready, Tex stepped off ten paces, and turning, the firing commenced. At the first fire Keiser shot Tex almost through the heart. As Tex stumbled to his knees and fell he fired four times, one ball passing through Keiser's body, just above the navel. When we got to them Tex was about dead. Keiser lived half an hour. William Whitson was a native of Texas—a State that has furnished more "border heroes" than any other. Charles Keiser was from Odessa, Mo. Both were young (neither of them more than 25), both warm hearted and as true as steel. Duty caused Tex to lose his life, while Keiser lost his through an unyielding pride. Both had many friends, and were really good friends themselves.

## A Hero Facing Death.

[John Wise, a laborer in the employ of the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad, was killed at the company's tunnel at West Point, on the night of September 30. While he was excavating for the new tunnel he was partly buried beneath a landslide. His fellow laborers went to his aid and were digging him out, when, looking up, he saw that more of the tunnel was about to fall. Observing the danger that threatened his rescuers, the hero shouted: "You can't save me, boys run to save yourselves." His order was obeyed. An instant later, while covering his face with his hands and awaiting his fate, he was buried beneath the falling mass of earth. The body was dug out and taken to Koboken, where his family resides. Such instances of heroism in the face of death deserve to be preserved as imperishable tablets.

## The N. J. Authorities will Indict Guiteau before the Grand Jury.

[N. O. Democrat.]

Red Bank, N. J. Sept. 27.—The legal authorities of Monmouth county have addressed the Attorney General of the state, and the Attorney General of the United States upon the propriety of finding in the Court before the Grand Jury of Monmouth county, at its meeting next Tuesday, against Guiteau for the murder of President Garfield. It is held that the waiver of the Coroner's inquest by the State does not deprive the Grand Jury of this county, of the power to indict and try the criminal. Also that the criminal law of New Jersey does not disqualify a citizen from serving on the jury simply because he has expressed an opinion on the case to be tried. If Attorney-General Stockton, of New Jersey, and Attorney-General MacVeach consider that the trial can be held here, the prisoner will be brought to New Jersey. The County Prosecutor of Plains, Hon. John Lanning, of Monmouth, has decided to file before the grand jury an indictment against Guiteau simply as a precautionary measure, so that if the Washington authorities deem it best to have the trial in New Jersey, there shall be no gap left for the escape of Guiteau by legal quibbles under the law of the District of Columbia.

## A Thief Killed Near Baton Rouge.

[Baton Rouge Capitoline, 23d ult.]

On last Tuesday night, Mr. G. A. Zahn, a hard working man, who tills below town a small field of corn, seeing that the little crop which he had raised by the sweat of his brow, was being carried away at night by thieves, concluded to defend it. He stationed himself in his patch and awaited development. At about 11:30 o'clock he saw a man enter the field and heard the rustling of the corn, indicating that he was at work stealing his corn. The man was coming towards the spot where he was, when becoming uneasy he fired at him with his gun, when he saw the thief fall. Thereupon Zahn came to the jail, related what had occurred, and gave himself up to the Deputy Sheriff. On yesterday morning the body of the thief, Hardy Price, col., was found in Zahn's field with a bag containing some stolen corn, lying near him. The Coroner's jury gave a verdict in accordance with the facts. No sorrow is expressed at the death of the thief, whom every one says was served exactly right.

## Galveston News.

[Galveston News.]

Why are the half-breeds so anxious to elect a President of the Senate pro tempore from their own ranks? And, secondly, why are they continually poking out the possibility of Arthur's taking off by "some crank," in the event of the election of a Democrat? Their eagerness on these two points, and their pretended solicitude for Arthur's safety, generally seem to bode no good to Arthur. They know he will be in no danger from Democratic cranks, for assassination is not the national method of the Democracy to dispose of obnoxious presidents. Perhaps the desire to elect a half-breed is mixed with plans to supplement the "nation's calamity" with another presidential funeral. The fear of electing a Democrat, for the reasons named, is an infamous accusation and a gross insult to at least one-half the people of the Republic.

N. O. Democrat, Sept. 27: Thad. Mayo, Esq., of Lake Charles, La., gave the Democrat a pleasant call yesterday. Mr. Mayo is the Clerk of the District Court of Calcasieu parish, but is in the city as special representative of the Lake Charles Commercial, a wide awake and progressive journal. Mr. Mayo will be in the city for a day or two, and will probably call upon some of our leading business men, whose interest in the development of trade with that rich and growing section of country will undoubtedly cause them to extend to him a cordial welcome and to give to his paper substantial evidence of their appreciation of its value as an advertising medium. The Democrat has frequently pointed out the importance of our merchants cultivating the trade of Southwestern Louisiana, which has almost entirely been deflected to Galveston, and we would suggest the present as the very best time to begin operations. Mr. Mayo's presence is opportune, and the trade of Lake Charles and vicinity can be had almost for the asking.

## Beware of Store-keepers who plaster walls, hedges and fences with their advertisements.

People who show newspapers are usually ashamed of their goods and only like to have them privately advertised. Trade only with storekeepers who advertise boldly in the newspapers. Such tradesmen are always reliable and their merchandise is always what they represent it.—[Sugar Planter.]

## An Old-fashioned minister passing a new-fashioned church, on which a spire was going up, asked how much higher it was going to be. "Not much," he answered, "that congregation don't own much higher in that direction." —N. O. Daily City Item.

## Among Our Exchanges.

Marksville Review: The nice crop of Avoyelles will amount to nothing this year; the same is true of sweet potatoes.

N. O. City Item: We are pleased to learn that Thad. Mayo, Esq., of Lake Charles, and, by the way, the very first subscriber to *The Item*, is now in the city, as the representative of the Lake Charles Commercial. We bespeak for him the favorable consideration of our business men.

N. O. Daily States: Mr. Thad. Mayo, clerk of court of Calcasieu parish, and representing that sterling journal, the Lake Charles Commercial, is in the city for several days. Lake Charles is in the center of a fine country, and our merchants will find the Commercial a valuable advertising medium.

Morgan City Review: The pile driver is now working upon next to the last cluster (or pier) for the railroad bridge across Berwick's Bay. Labor on the iron superstructure has been pushed with considerable vigor lately, and it now looks reasonable for a fulfillment of the promise to cross a train by the 1st of December.

Donaldsonville Chief: Tuesday night several prisoners confined in the parish jail at Plaquemine attempted to break jail by filing the bars of their cell with a saw improvised from a table knife which an old colored man, employed as jailor's assistant, had sold to the prisoners for a dollar. The attempt was discovered before the job of sawing was complete, and the man who sold the knife to the prisoners is under arrest. There are thirty-two persons in the Plaquemine jail.

Natchitoches Vindicator: The indications are that the corn crop throughout the country will be short. There is no question on the subject in this section. Already prices rule at one hundred per cent higher than at the same time last year. Those who possess this cereal will do well to husband it, as it will be in great demand during the coming winter. Unless economy is rigidly practiced there will be suffering for bread-stuffs, hence our advice to the producers is to hold on to your corn and not dispose of it to speculators. The people will need it for bread.

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